

four artists whose lives were personally touched by breast cancer. One of these dancers is Jane Weiner, the sister of Susan Raffte, a Houstonian who is a survivor of metastatic breast cancer.

I believe that Susan's story is important for all women to understand. In 1992, at age 30, Susan discovered a lump during self-examination, but her doctor did not believe it could be cancer for such a young, healthy patient. In 1994, Susan was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She opted for a bilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Regrettably, her battle was not over. In 1996, she discovered that her cancer had spread to her spine and she opted to undergo a new bone marrow transplant procedure. Under this procedure, patients undergo extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment to kill the cancer cells. As a result of these treatments, many patients lose their bone marrow and are susceptible to infections. In order to protect against infections, patients donate healthy bone marrow prior to their radiation and chemotherapy treatments and then transplant their analogous bone marrow after undergoing treatments. Susan's treatment has been a success and today she is fighting to ensure healthier futures for all women with her family, husband Alan Raffte, also a cancer survivor, and her 4-year-old daughter Marika as a special inspiration. In particular, Susan wants to encourage other women to be aggressive about their health and get second opinions when they are not satisfied with diagnoses and treatments.

The Pink Ribbons Project is the first dance initiative to join the fight against breast cancer. In 1996, the dance was introduced in Los Angeles. This year, these Pink Ribbons dancers will create a dance benefit called Hot Pink Houston to be performed at the Cullen Theater on November 12, 1998 in Houston. These dancers donate their time, service and talents to help raise funds for breast cancer advocacy, education and research.

With their first performance, the Pink Ribbons Project raised more than \$10,000 that was donated to the National Alliance for Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO). NABCO used these funds to send 10 women with metastatic breast cancer to Washington, D.C., where they testified before the Federal Drug Administration, the Federal agency responsible for reviewing drug treatments and therapies. Their testimonies helped three new drugs win approval for treatment use.

I congratulate all involved in this vital project, including the Houston Ballet, Chrysalis, the Weave Dance Company, Sarah Irwin, Fly, Robin Staff, Hope Stone, Shake Russell, and Dana Cooper, who are all donating their talents for the Houston show. It is my hope that the Hot Pink Houston event will encourage more in our community to join the fight against breast cancer.

The value of the Hot Pink Houston program cannot be overstated. One in eight women can expect to develop breast cancer during her lifetime, and one in 28 women will die from it. Every 15 minutes, a woman dies from breast cancer. During this decade, it is estimated that more than 1.8 million women, and 12,000 men, will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Nearly half a million will die of this disease. Such statistics can be numbing, but they are all too real to those of us whose families have been affected by breast cancer.

But the saddest fact of all is that so many of these deaths are preventable. With the exception of skin cancer, breast cancer is the most survivable of cancers and when detected in its earlier stages, it has a 95 percent survival rate. So it is vital that women conduct regular breast self-examinations and obtain regular mammograms.

Because of the tremendous generosity of Pink Ribbon dancers, more women will learn about breast cancer and how we can work together to save lives.

EDUCATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my outrage for President Clinton's veto record with regards to the education of our nation's children.

Over the past Congress, President Clinton has vetoed 7 major Republican education initiatives. That's seven times the President chose politics over our children. I truly believe the key to our children's future is the education they receive. Nothing can be of more importance to our families, our communities and our country than the quality of education in America. Apparently President Clinton does not see it this way.

Despite the President's heavy veto pen, the Republican's have been able to enact legislation which will benefit this nation's education system. We now have the lowest student loan interest rate in 17 years and have enacted a tax deduction for student loans. We also passed a Head Start reauthorization, providing for more funding to help states meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the President's decision to play politics with our children's education and future is a bad choice. The fact is, it doesn't take a bureaucrat from Washington to tell us how to teach our children when parents have always and will always know best. We need to keep Washington out of our schools and ensure that parents and teachers are able to make their own decisions about how they want their children taught. I would like to commend my Republican colleagues for the hard work this Congress has done for our children's future.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments today to pay a special tribute to a colleague of mine who at the end of this legislative session will be retiring after a long and distinguished career from the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, a native son of Massachusetts and the eldest son of Ethel and the late Robert F. Kennedy, will soon be returning to our great State to, along

with other pursuits, run Citizens' Energy Corporation, the low-income assistance program he founded in the early 1980's. Before he departs, I would like to take a few moments today to honor his accomplishments here in the House and to tell you more about the man I regard as my friend.

JOE KENNEDY roots for the underdog and leaves behind in Washington a long track record of standing on the side of people who don't view government as an intrusion, but instead, as a means for achieving justice and dignity in life.

Whether working to assist the homeless, children, the poor, the elderly or the disabled, JOE KENNEDY has always brought a special earnestness and passion to his work. As a result, his legislative achievements on the Banking Committee and in the House have been many, and the impact of his charitable and meaningful work will continue to be felt for years to come.

Since 1986, his constituents in the 8th District of Massachusetts have known of Congressman JOE KENNEDY's dedication. They, like those of us who work with him regularly, also know of the many endearing qualities he brings to the table.

JOE KENNEDY is a remarkably kind man, and it is his heart, not political polls or newspaper headlines, that is the compass that guides him in here in Washington. Congressman JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II has continued the great legacy of his father and his uncle, and it is his heart and his commitment to what is right and just that people from Massachusetts and across the Nation will miss most.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank JOE KENNEDY, my friend, for his many years of hard work in the United States Congress. I wish JOE and his wife Beth all the best on the road that rises to meet them in the years that lie ahead.

CLARITIN AND SPECIAL INTEREST LOBBYING

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as all of my colleagues know, this is the time of year when special interests come out in force to take advantage of our busy schedule. They try to slip last-minute riders into conference reports and sneak lucrative patent extensions into crucial appropriations bills. If history is any guide, a number of pharmaceutical companies are at the very head of this unsavory pack.

You may recall that, in the dead of night, someone smuggled a drug patent extension into the conference report of the 1997 Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Care Reform Act. Neither Senator KENNEDY nor Senator Kassebaum were informed of this corporate giveaway. Only public protest prevented the drug company from scoring a multimillion dollar coup at the expense of consumers.

It is the widespread rumors about a similar effort that have brought me here. I want to alert my colleagues to the efforts of Schering-Plough to sneak a backdoor patent extension onto the continuing resolution.

For many years, Schering has sought to extend its patent protections for Claritin, a prescription antihistamine with over \$900 million